

May 5, 1987

Mr. Roger Cohen Jr.
4701 Sangamore Road
Bethesda, MD 20816

Dear Roger,

I have had several pieces of correspondence with you in the the past, the most recent in 1983 regarding some questions I had on the relative rarity of the 1803 C-2 with and without the reverse die break. You have been very responsive to my inquiries to which I have been very appreciative. I have been actively collecting Half Cents for almost eight years and have accumulated over seventy varieties.

In 1983 and 1984 you were the author of a series of articles in PENNEYWISE which was entitled "The Top Ten". The articles listed the top ten best condition examples of each Half Cent variety (where ten examples existed) and the available pedigree information for each example. As I recollect however, the series of articles was terminated when you got about half way through the 1804's.

I am very interested in obtaining an up-to-date condition census list (with pedigrees if possible) for the entire Half Cent series. If you could provide me with this information I would once again be very appreciative. I would be most happy to reimburse you for any costs incurred in providing this information so please feel free to submit an invoice for prompt payment.

I have enclosed a foil pressing (which you are more than welcome to keep for your records) of my 1809 C-1 which I believe to be in the lower end of the condition census for this variety. I grade the coin a F-15 or so in terms of actual wear but probably nets around a VG-08 to 10 as the coin is very slightly bent, almost imperceptibly so. It exhibits a natural brown color and in my opinion has never been cleaned or otherwise tampered with. I cherry picked this one at a small weekend coin show in Hutchinson, Kansas in 1982.

I thank you in advance for any information you may be able to provide me on the Half Cent condition census.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Hays
7255 S. Steele Circle
Littleton, CO 80122
EAC #1785

4701 SANGAMORE RD.
BETHESDA MD. 20816
JUNE 11, 1987

Mark E. Hays
7255 S. Steele Circle
Lilleton Co. 80122

Dear Mark,

I thanks for your letter and I will try to answer it. "The top ten" series sure has come to a screeching halt for a number of reasons. The most important one is a lack of time on my part to get the clatter in order to run it in Penny Wren. Secondly there are a number of other persons who are working on the Condolion Census and as usual as fast as ^{we} get a listing another significant specimen show up. It will probably be a number of years until something is published. More than likely it will be the work of a group rather than the work of a single person such as myself.

The "Big Redbook" by Breen has created a rather large research project in separating fact from fiction. but after 3 years most of the questions have been resolved.

Thank you for the pressing of your 1809 #1. Without seeing the coin I would agree with your grade of F-15 and will list it as that. It will leave to others the task of challenging the grade.

Presently I have records of about 35 specimens I will list on the next page those which I rate F-12 or higher. The ones not listed are all in the range of V6-10 downward. The variety is definitely an R-5 now and it will be some time before it reaches the R-4 level which requires at least 75 specimens.

Sincerely,
Breen

1809 #1

- EF-40 UNATTRIBUTED - PENNSYLVANIA COLLECTOR
- EF-40 ANA CONVENTION SALE 8/70 : 27, \$90 - PAUL MUNSON (1971) -
MARYLAND COLLECTOR
(PLATED IN COHEN 1ST + 2ND EDITIONS)
- VF-30 STEVE FISCHER (1985) - MIDWEST COLLECTOR
- VF-25 KAGIN AUCTION 9/72 : 617, \$485 - R. TETTENHORST (1995) -
MICHIGAN COLLECTOR.
(PLATED FOR VARIETY IN BREEN BOOK)
- VF-20 UNATTRIBUTED - KANSAS COLLECTOR
- VF-20 BOWERS + RUPPY SALE 11/82 : ? & ? - VIRGINIA COLLECTOR
(ONLY KNOWN SPECIMEN WITH REVERSE GUD)
- VF-20 G. VENABLE - D.N. BLAND - JACK BERMER - CALIFORNIA
INVESTOR
PLATED IN BREEN BOOK AS 13S II
- VF-20? R. PICKER⁽¹⁹⁵⁶⁾ - NORWEGIAN COLLECTION
(THIS COIN WHICH HAS NOT BEEN SEEN SINCE 1956
WAS RECENTLY GRADED AS VG-10 BY DEL BLAND)
- F-15 R. PICKER (1954) (DISCOVERY SPECIMEN) - MERKIN SALE 9/68 : 67 -
(REPURCHASED BY PICKER) - STACKS 1/87 : 1158, \$2200 -
DELAWARE COLLECTOR.
- F-15 Your Specimen
- F-12 JR. McGUIGAN - PRESENT OWNER UNKNOWN

June 18, 1987

Mr. Roger Cohen Jr.
4701 Sangamore Road
Bethesda, MD 20816

Dear Roger,

Thank you for your letter of June 11, 1987 wherein you provided me with some general information on the condition census for the Half Cent series and supplied an attachment with specific information on the condition census for the 1809 C-1 variety. I am writing you back with regard to the latter information.

I noticed that your condition census listing for the 1809 C-1 variety contained a VF-20 example which you described as being unattributed and in the possession of a Kansas collector. I would be interested in knowing if you have more specific information regarding this Kansas example. I have a strong suspicion the coin I described to you in my recent letter (of which you received a pressing) and the Kansas example are one and the same coin.

I lived in Wichita, Kansas from 1979 to 1984. As I mentioned in my previous letter I purchased my 1809 C-1 at a small weekend coin show in Hutchinson, Kansas in 1982. As I recall, I subsequently informed several EACer's (J. McGuigan, T. Reynolds, ?, ?) of my acquisition and described the grade as a VF-20. I have since obtained a little better understanding of EAC grading and have reduced the sharpness grade to a F-15. At any rate, it would not surprise me to find the VF-20 Kansas coin and my F-15 coin on your condition census listing represent the same example.

Should you have any questions, please advise.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Hays

Mark E. Hays
7255 S. Steele Circle
Littleton, CO 80122
EAC #1785

6/26/87

*This example was reported to me by
a man named Caffay - at a show
in February 1984. He also called my
Bj phone about this. Ted May told
he the same coin but my understanding
was that he acquired the coin
unattributed and still owned it.*

*Perhaps you can give me a little
more data to help - (over)*

For example. Some writing to you it has been
concluded that the Norway example is the discovery
Coin of 1809 #1, Not the Coin recently sold by Stack.
The difficulty here is that Richard Perkins owned both
Coins

July 7, 1987

Mr. Roger Cohen Jr.
4701 Sangamore Road
Bethesda, MD 20816

Dear Roger,

I am in receipt of your letter dated June 26, 1987 wherein you indicated the 1809 C-1 VF-20 Kansas example on your Condition Census list was reported to you by a Mr. Coffey.

Dennis Coffey was my next door neighbor in Wichita at the time I acquired my 1809 C-1 which I described to you in previous correspondence. Dennis recently indicated to me that he had mentioned my coin to you but did not recall saying that it belonged to him. In any event, the VF-20 Kansas coin and my F-15 coin are one and the same as I had suspected.

Dennis did cherry pick a 1794 C-4b at a Kansas City show during about the same time period. I believe he subsequently sold this coin to Ricky Gross.

Should you have any questions, please advise.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Hays
7255 S. Steele Circle
Littleton, CO 80122
EAC #1785

7/10/87

Dear Mark,

Many thanks for getting this straightened out. It would seem that sometimes the details of coin ownership is not always mentioned specifically thus my previous assumption that Dennis Coffey owned it.

Should I use the term "Colorado Collector" as the present owner?

Sincerely,
B...

August 24, 1983

Mr. Roger S. Cohen Jr.
4701 Sangamore Road
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Roger,

I recently acquired an 1803 C-2 with the same reverse die break as illustrated in your book by the Ungar specimen on page 42. The coin grades a strong Good (6) with slightly granular surfaces and a few obverse cuts and nicks. The coin really is not bad looking for the grade.

I would be interested in knowing if you might have some information regarding the rarity and condition census of the 1803 C-2 with the broken reverse. I would assume the mint would have discarded the reverse die shortly after it broke resulting in a relatively small number of specimens.

I thank you in advance for any information you may be able to provide me.

Mark E. Hays
300 W. Douglas - Suite 748
Wichita, KS 67202
EAC Member 1785

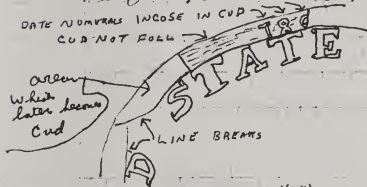
8/30/83

Dear Mark.

It has been my experience that about $\frac{1}{2}$ of the 1803 #2's exhibit the die Cud which you refer to. As a Variety the #2 is B-5 meaning 31-74 Specimens. With the total Number estimated to be about 60 cs of Now. Most Half Cent Variety Collectors have a Specimen usually in rather low Condition.

The Ungar specimen plated is probably the sharpest one known. Graded on the reverse it's a VF-30 however the obverse has damage so that the over all grade of the Coin is considered to be F-15. There are two other broken die specimens that are VF-30 + VF-20 With No damage.

Interestingly enough there are enough broken die specimens that the states can be followed. The first state shows the line break followed by a single specimen in a New Jersey Collector which is as follows. (I'm not a good artist)



What has happened is that the obverse has closed with the piece of the REV die which will drop out to make the First ^{state of the} Cud. The second state of the Cud is shown on the UNGBA coin.

There are about 5^{Now} specimens known with the First state of the Cud. I.E. Rumis from T to T of ST 705. I did not put this in the second edition as it has only been within the last 2 years that anyone noticed the differences in the Cuds!

Well I hope this will fill you in on the latest and thanks for writing.

Sincerely
Bogen.

March 23, 1983

Mr. Roger S. Cohen, Jr.
4701 Sangamore Road
Bethesda, MD 20816

Mr. Roger Cohen,

I note in your book, "The Little Half Sisters", that your illustration of a "late die state" for the 1804 C-6 variety is a Brobston specimen.

I have made the assumption, which may not be correct, that when you attribute a particular illustration to a particular individual (Brobston, Dupont, etc) the variety being illustrated is of special importance with regard to condition, rarity or both.

I would appreciate knowing if the late die state shown for the 1804 C-6 variety in your book is particularly rare and if you have a descriptive listing of the various die states for this variety. Thank you.

Mark E. Hays
300 W. Douglas - Suite 748
Wichita, KS 67202
EAC & ANA Member

3/24/83

Mark E. Hays
300 W. Douglas.
Suite 748
Wichita KS 67202

Dear Mr Hays,

Your letter of March 23 read with
considerable interest

Your assumption in regard to an illustrated
coin is Not Necessarily Correct. In the case of
the 1804 #6 from the Brossman Collection, it just
happens to own this coin and it was illustrated
in my first edition also. The photo is an acceptable
one to illustrate one of the later ~~stages~~ die states of the
Variety. The Variety is only an R-2 and the Particular
State is one of the more common ones. Many more specimens
are known in higher condition than the Brossman one
which is illustrated. So as you can see your
Assumption is Not Necessarily Correct.

Another Half Cent Collector has written an
Article on 1804 #6 Die States. It was published
in "Pennywise" at least 8 years ago. If by some
chance you have back issue it was written by
Tom Katman. He illustrated it with at least
9 drawings. You might write to him at:

3 Saxony Dr.

CINNAMINSON N.J. 08077

to see if he has a copy.

I hope the answers your question

Sincerely
Roger